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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 25 No. 12 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics December, 1989

Trend Setters

Wyoming	Sept'89	Oct'89
Labor Force	222,801	223,145
Employment	210,322	211,642
Unemployment	12,479	11,503
Rate (Raw)	5.6	5.2
Rate (S.A.)	6.8	5.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.64	$14.00
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.7	42.6
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.17	$13.14
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.9	44.6
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	125.0	125.6
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.3	+4.5

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In This Issue:

U.S. Real Earnings.

Measurement of Unemployment in State and Local Areas.

U.S. Unemployment Remains at 5.3 Percent

Once again national unemployment, at a seasonally adjusted 5.3 percent in October, continued in the same 5.2-5.3 percent range it has maintained since April. Last month and last year the unemployment rate was also 5.3 percent. The October rate represents 6.6 million job seekers across the nation.

Adult men displaced adult women for the lowest unemployment, at 4.5 percent in October. The 16-19 year olds continued with the highest rate, 14.9 percent.

U.S. Service Producing Industries Grow

U.S. nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the establishment survey, gained 2.8 million workers over the year in October. Virtually all of this growth, 2.6 million took place in the service-producing sector. While construction was up 170,000 across the nation, 3.1 percent over the year, the other goods-producing industrial categories of mining and manufacturing have remained relatively static.

In the service-producing sector, services was up annually by 1.2 million workers; trade, up 553 thousand; government, up 520 thousand; and finance, insurance, and real estate and transportation and public utilities were both up over 140,000.

The total number of employed workers in the U.S. in October was 117.5 million, seasonally adjusted, up 2.0 million workers or 1.7 percent.

Wyoming Unemployment Drops in October

Wyoming seasonally adjusted unemployment, at 5.9 percent, was only around one-half percentage point above the U.S. rate of 5.3 percent in October. The year ago statewide rate was 6.8 percent.

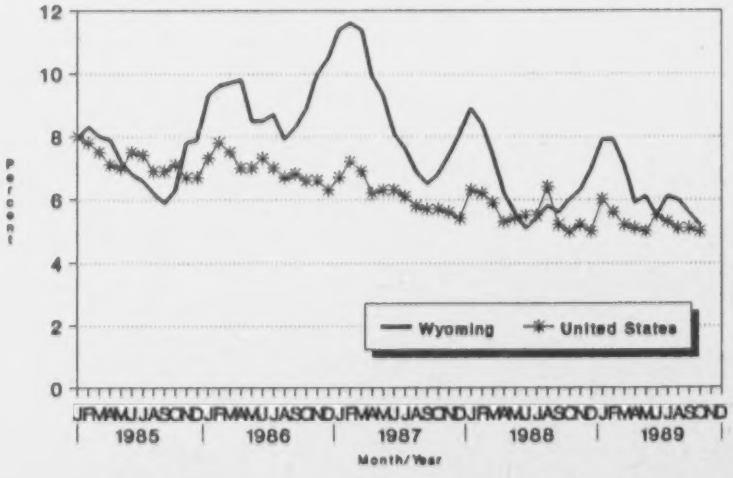
Unadjusted, the October rate of 5.2 percent was down from 5.6 percent in September. Historically, unemployment and its rate almost always go up in October due mainly to weather related worker layoffs. The unseasonably warm fall weather appears to have given the state's economy a major boost in October. The year ago rate stood at 6.0 percent. The number of unemployed statewide, at 11,500, was down by over a thousand from September, and compared to 13,800 a year ago.

In the state the majority, 19 of the 23 counties had lower unemployment over the year reflecting the statewide trend. Nine counties had lower unemployment in October than the U.S. seasonally unadjusted rate of 5.0 percent.

State Worker Count Up From September, Down Over The Year

The same good weather that lowered unemployment in October also kept the total employment count from falling, as it usually does. The October worker count, at 211,600, was up slightly from 210,300 in September

Unemployment Rate, Wyoming and the U.S.
Civilian Unadjusted
1985 - 1989



and continued down from the 217,300 registered last year, a 2.6 percent decline.

WY Industrial Trends Parallel That of The Nation

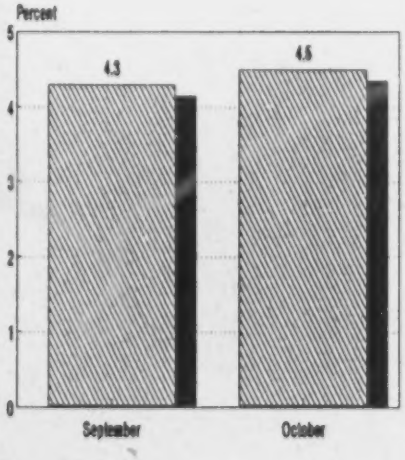
Wyoming continued, in October, its 1989 trend of following the growth pattern of the national economy. Annual growth in the Cowboy state was largely confined to services, transportation and utilities, retail trade, and local and federal government. The growth in services was substantial and mainly confined to hotels and lodging places, primarily in tourist oriented areas. The Casper and Cheyenne areas, the only counties where current industrial employment is surveyed, indicated services employment was at about year ago levels.

Manufacturing, mining with construction, wholesale trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and state government were all around or below year ago levels.

County Trends

The lowest unemployment in Wyoming was shared by Teton and Goshen counties, at 3.0 percent. Albany County followed at 3.3 percent. Converse County had the highest level of joblessness at 7.1 percent.

Consumer Price Index
Annual Percent Change
All Urban



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

U.S. Real Earnings in October, 1989

Real average weekly earnings increased 0.6 percent from September to October after seasonal adjustment, according to preliminary data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. This increase stemmed from a 0.7 percent increase in average hourly earnings and a 0.3 percent increase in average weekly hours which were partially offset by a 0.5 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

Average weekly earnings increased by 4.0 percent between October of 1988 and 1989 as a result of a 4.0 percent increase in average hourly earnings. Average weekly hours were unchanged over the year. After adjustment for a 4.5 percent increase in the CPI-W over the same period, real average weekly earnings decreased by 0.4 percent. Before adjustment for seasonal change and deflation by the CPI-W, average weekly earnings were $343.07 in October 1989, compared with $328.81 a year earlier.

Comparable weekly earnings for Wyoming are not adjusted for inflation or seasonality and are available for manufacturing and mining. Manufacturing production workers in Wyoming averaged $393.43 in October a 2.6 percent decline from last month's average of $403.90, and a 0.9 percent increase over last year. Mining production workers earned an average of $596.40 a week during October and 609.71 during September, a decline of 2.2 percent. Last year miners made $627.97 a week in Wyoming. This clearly indicates a decline in the buying power of Wyoming workers.

Measurement of Unemployment In State and Local Areas

In 1972, the Bureau of Labor Statistics was assigned the responsibility for developing the concepts and methods used by states to estimate labor force, employment and unemployment. These estimates use concepts, definitions and estimation controls from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the Bureau of the Census survey used to measure the labor force status of individuals.

These estimates are a key indicator of local economic conditions and are used by state and local governments for planning and budgetary purposes. The estimates are important as indicators of the need for local employment and training services and programs. Local area unemployment estimates are used to determine the eligibility of an area for benefits in various federal assistance programs.

The unemployment rate using the BLS methodology is often referred to as the total unemployment rate. This distinguishes this rate from the insured unemployment rate. The insured unemployment rate uses the count of continued claims under the regular state UI entitlement compared to all persons covered by the state UI program. (*Continued next page.*)

Top Paying Occupations at Wyoming Job Service
With More Than Five Job Openings, 3rd Qtr. 1989

Rank	DOT*	Occupation	Avg. Hourly Wage
1.	182	Construction Industry Managers & Officers	$12.12
2.	075	Registered Nurses	$11.80
3.	638	Misc. Machine Installers & Repairers	$11.62
4.	162	Purchasing Managers	$11.34
5.	824	Assemblers, Installers & Repairers of Lighting Equipment & Building Wiring, N.E.C.	$10.94
6.	859	Excavators, Graters & Pavers N.E.C.	$10.14
7.	160	Accountants & Auditors	$10.07
8.	853	Asphalt/Concrete Pavers	$ 9.90
9.	699	Misc. Machine Trades, N.E.C.	$ 9.87
10.	921	Hoisting/Conveying Operators	$ 9.60

Source: Job Service.*DOT Dictionary of Occupations

The total unemployment rate is calculated monthly and annually, and includes not only those claiming UI benefits but also those who have exhausted benefits or have been denied benefits and are still unemployed and those not monetarily eligible, including new entrants and reentrants to the labor force.

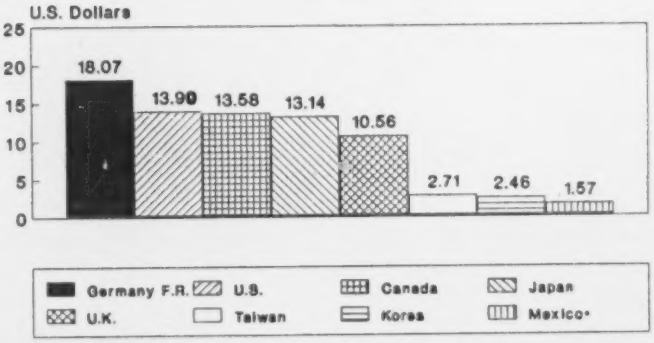
The relationship between the total unemployment rate and the insured unemployment rate has seen a divergence, steadily growing over recent years. The reasons for this divergence include a number of factors such as changing composition of the labor force and changes in state laws affecting eligibility for UI benefits. *Source: Labor Market Information, A Desk Reference For Administrators, Interstate Conference Of Employment Security Agencies, Inc.*

HOT SPRINGS, WYOMING

Hot Springs County's 1987 population of 5,700 ranked 21st in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Hot Springs had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,260. This PCPI ranked 13th in the state, and was 96 percent of the state average ($12,706) and 79 percent of the national average ($15,484). In 1977, Hot Springs' PCPI of $6,817 ranked 14th in the state. The average annual growth rate over the past 10 years was 6.0 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.0 percent and for the nation was 7.8 percent.

Hourly Compensation Costs
Manufacturing Production Workers
1988 U.S. Dollars



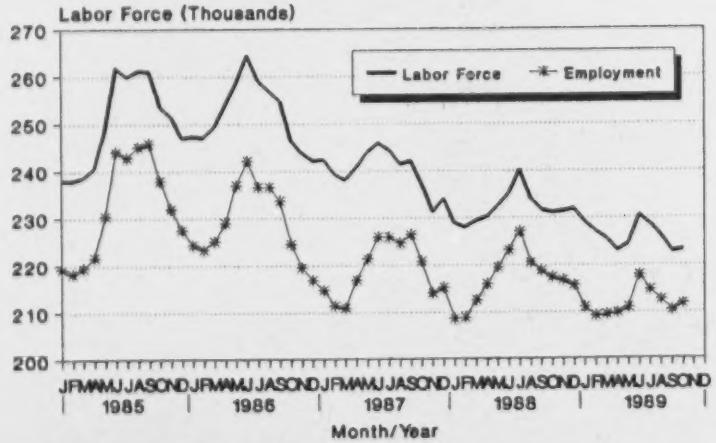
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
*Mexico, 1987 latest available.

JOHNSON, WYOMING

Johnson County's 1987 population of 6,600 ranked 19th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Johnson had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,042. This PCPI ranked 15th in the state, and was 95 percent of the state average ($12,706) and 78 percent of the national average ($15,484). In 1977, Johnson's PCPI of $6,582 ranked 16th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 6.2 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.0 percent and for the nation was 7.8 percent.

Wyoming Labor Force and Employment
1985 - 1989


Labor Force (Thousands)
270
260
250
240
230
220
210
200
Labor Force
Employment
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
Month/Year

Scale does not begin at zero.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, BLS and Research & Analysis.

Merry Christmas
from all of us
at the

Wyoming
Employment
Security
Commission.

Consumer Price Index

(1982-1984 = 100)
All Urban

	Oct. 1989	Annual % change
All Items	125.6	4.5
Food & Beverage	126.3	5.0
Housing	124.4	3.8
Entertainment	128.4	5.4
Apparel & Upkeep	122.7	1.7
Transportation	114.5	4.1
Medical	152.7	8.1

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	OCTOBER 1989 [1]	SEPTEMBER 1989 [1]	OCTOBER 1988 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	223,145	222,801	231,150	0.2	- 3.5
Unemployment	11,503	12,479	13,824	- 7.8	-16.8
Employed Labor Force	211,642	210,322	217,326	0.6	- 2.6
Agriculture [3]	13,026	11,941	11,277	9.1	15.5
Covered Employment (Under WY UI Law) [3]	177,200 [6]	183,100 [6]	175,411	- 3.2	1.0
Total Unemployment Rate (WY) Seasonally Adjusted*	5.2% 5.9%*	5.6% 6.8%*	6.0% 6.8%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U. S.) Seasonally Adjusted*	5.0% 5.3%*	5.1% 5.3%*	5.0% 5.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (WY) [4]	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	XXX	XXX
HOURS AND EARNINGS [5]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 596.40	$ 609.71	$ 627.97	- 2.2	- 5.0
Average Weekly Hours	42.6	44.7	43.1	- 4.7	- 1.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.00	$ 13.64	$ 14.57	2.6	- 3.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	11,033	8,595	12,211	28.4	- 9.6
Initial	2,405	1,420	2,458	69.4	- 2.2
Weeks Compensated	6,420	6,168	6,788	4.1	- 5.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 987,550	$ 971,547	$ 1,055,590	1.6	- 6.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 153.61	$ 156.85	$ 155.04	- 2.1	- 0.9
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
Total Applications Received During Month	4,025	4,640	4,253	- 13.3	- 5.4
Total Openings Received	3,399	4,159	2,839	- 18.3	19.7
Individual Placements	1,798	2,374	1,988	- 24.3	- 9.6
Placement Transactions	2,835	3,154	2,989	- 10.1	- 5.2
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS AND EARNINGS [5]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 586.04	$ 578.16	$ 544.85	1.4	7.6
Average Weekly Hours	44.6	43.9	42.6	1.6	4.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.14	$ 13.17	$ 12.79	- 0.2	2.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-1984 = 100	125.6	125.0	120.2	0.5	4.5
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-1984 = 100	112.7	112.3	108.2	0.4	4.2
Food and Beverage, 1982-1984 = 100	126.3	125.9	120.3	0.3	5.0

[1] Preliminary. [2] Revised. [3] Not benchmarked to current population survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants remaining benefits under extended benefit provisions. [5] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [6] Estimate based on historical trends.

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT
TABLE 2 (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
COUNTY	OCT. 1989	SEP. 1989	OCT. 1988	% CHANGE SEP.-OCT.	% CHANGE OCT.-OCT.	OCT. 1989	SEP. 1989	OCT. 1988	OCT. 1989	SEP. 1989	OCT. 1988
Statewide	223,145	222,801	231,150	0.2	- 3.5	11,503	12,479	13,824	5.2	5.6	6.0
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									5.9*	6.8*	6.8*
Albany	14,097	13,691	14,835	3.0	- 5.0	463	434	553	3.3	3.2	3.7
Big Horn	5,433	5,190	5,173	4.7	5.0	233	326	305	4.3	6.3	5.9
Campbell	14,149	13,830	15,013	2.3	- 5.8	769	990	1,181	5.4	7.2	7.9
Carbon	6,857	6,661	7,315	2.9	- 6.3	389	445	530	5.7	6.7	7.2
Converse	5,945	5,566	5,942	6.8	0.1	420	345	362	7.1	6.2	6.1
Crook	2,717	2,504	2,861	8.5	- 5.0	107	115	170	3.9	4.6	5.9
Fremont	16,291	15,847	16,051	2.8	1.5	1,028	1,140	1,134	6.3	7.2	7.1
Goshen	5,659	5,297	5,869	6.8	- 3.6	168	174	210	3.0	3.3	3.6
Hot Springs	2,783	2,697	2,835	3.2	- 1.8	159	117	147	5.7	4.3	5.2
Johnson	3,499	3,376	3,429	3.6	2.0	149	126	168	4.3	3.7	4.9
Laramie	32,865	32,561	35,799	0.9	- 8.2	1,710	1,870	1,781	5.2	5.7	5.0
Lincoln	5,159	5,252	5,598	- 1.8	- 7.8	301	319	419	5.8	6.1	7.5
Natrona	28,445	28,374	30,714	0.3	- 7.4	1,657	1,811	1,857	5.8	6.4	6.0
Niobrara	1,088	1,134	1,275	- 4.1	-14.7	57	61	72	5.2	5.4	5.6
Park	13,345	13,647	13,236	- 2.2	0.8	608	695	797	4.6	5.1	6.0
Platte	4,837	4,820	4,520	0.4	7.0	254	232	257	5.3	4.8	5.7
Sheridan	13,556	13,230	13,021	2.5	4.1	492	630	678	3.6	4.8	5.2
Sublette	2,494	2,487	2,656	0.3	- 6.1	102	111	145	4.1	4.5	5.5
Sweetwater	17,780	17,293	18,475	2.8	- 3.8	1,125	1,112	1,429	6.3	6.4	7.7
Teton	9,599	12,668	9,362	-24.2	2.5	287	211	427	3.0	1.7	4.6
Uinta	8,929	9,240	9,385	- 3.4	- 4.9	572	793	769	6.4	8.6	8.2
Washakie	4,235	4,002	4,397	5.8	- 3.7	285	208	240	6.7	5.2	5.5
Weston	3,384	3,435	3,389	- 1.5	- 0.1	169	215	191	5.0	6.3	5.6
United States									5.0	5.1	5.0
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.3*	5.3*	5.3*

The ESC wishes to state that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about a year. The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1988 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

TABLE 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	OCT 1989 [2] TOTAL	SEP 1989 [3] TOTAL	OCT 1988 TOTAL	SEP 1989 to OCT 1989	OCT 1988 to OCT 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	194.2	195.7	188.7	-0.8%	2.9%
Manufacturing	9.8	9.7	9.6	1.0	2.1
Durable Goods	4.1	4.2	4.1	-2.4	0.0
Nondurable Goods	5.7	5.5	5.5	3.6	3.6
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	184.4	186.0	179.1	-0.9	3.0
Mining	18.6	18.9	19.0	-1.6	-2.1
Contract Construction	11.2	11.5	11.0	-2.6	1.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.6	14.7	13.5	-0.7	8.2
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.0	0.0	40.0
Transportation except Railroads	6.0	6.1	5.7	-1.6	5.3
Communications, Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.7	43.0	41.9	-0.7	1.9
Wholesale Trade	6.9	7.0	6.9	-1.4	0.0
Retail Trade	35.8	36.0	35.0	-0.6	2.3
Food Stores	5.4	5.3	5.3	1.9	1.9
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	5.8	6.0	5.5	-3.3	5.5
Eating & Drinking Places	13.0	13.2	13.1	-1.5	-0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.0	0.0
Services	34.7	36.6	32.5	-5.2	6.8
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.9	7.0	6.9	-1.4	0.0
Government	55.4	54.1	54.0	2.4	2.6
Federal Government	8.7	8.9	8.2	-2.3	6.1
State & Local Government	46.7	45.2	45.8	3.3	2.0
State Government	14.0	13.7	13.9	2.2	0.7
Local Government	32.7	31.5	31.9	3.8	2.5

See footnotes at end of table

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

TABLE 3 (Continued) (Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	OCT 1989 [2] TOTAL	SEP 1989 [3] TOTAL	OCT 1988 TOTAL	SEP 1989 to OCT 1989	OCT 1988 to OCT 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	27.6	27.8	27.6	-0.7%	0.0%
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.2	26.4	26.2	-0.8	0.0
Mining	2.8	2.9	2.8	-3.5	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.6	2.7	2.6	-3.7	0.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.8	8.0	7.8	-2.5	0.0
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.2	2.2	-4.6	-4.6
Retail Trade	5.7	5.8	5.6	-1.7	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Government	4.9	4.8	5.0	2.1	-2.0
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	4.2	4.1	4.3	2.4	-2.3
CHEYENNE (Laramie)					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	30.8	30.8	30.2	0.0	2.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.4	1.3	-7.1	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.5	29.4	28.9	0.3	2.1
Contract Construction	1.6	1.5	1.7	6.7	-5.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.3	3.3	2.9	0.0	13.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	1.5
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	5.5	5.6	5.5	-1.8	0.0
Government	10.2	10.1	10.1	1.0	1.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.8	2.7	-3.6	0.0
State & Local Government	7.5	7.3	7.4	2.7	1.4

1 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2 Subject to revision. 3 Revised figures.